

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 TRSE-00
HEW-04 AID-05 OMB-01 /135 W
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R 112156Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2500
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
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GENEVA PLEASE PASS WELLS AND MATTESON ECOSOC
DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PORG, SHUM, UNGA
SUBJECT: FIRST ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS IN NYC ON
HUMAN RIGHTS FOR 33RD GA

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REF: A) USUN 2635, B) USUN 2629

1. SUMMARY. USUN MISOFF HAS COMPLETED FIRST ROUND
OF TALKS WITH AVAILABLE THIRD COMMITTEE OFFICERS ON
HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, AND HAS FOUND, IN CONTRAST TO
LAST YEAR, ALMOST NO ACTIVITY OR PLANS, BUT AN
OPENNESS TO TAKE ON SOME ISSUES THAT MIGHT STRENGTHEN

THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM IN THE UN. ESPECIALLY NOTABLE WAS THE RECEPTIVITY OF SOME NON-ALIGNEDS TO SOME OF OUR IDEAS. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS USUN MISOFF HAS HAD SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH THIRD COMMITTEE REPS FROM ALGERIA, AUSTRALIA, CANADA (TWICE), COSTA RICA, EGYPT, FINLAND, FRG, IRAN, IRELAND, ITALY, JAMAICA (TWICE), NIGERIA, PORTUGAL, AND UNITED KINGDOM (TWICE). CONTACTS HAVE BEEN LIMITED BY ABSENCE OF MANY REPS EITHER ON VACATION OR IN GENEVA FOR SUMMER ECOSOC, BUT WE HOPE TO PICK UP ANOTHER TEN TO FIFTEEN OF THE MOST ACTIVE THIRD COMMITTEE DELEGATIONS BY THE END OF JULY.

3. IN CONTRAST TO LAST YEAR, WHEN BY THIS TIME THERE WAS A STEADY SERIES OF MEETINGS PREPARING THE PUSH FOR THE PROPOSAL FOR A HIGH COMMISSIONER, ONLY THE UK AND THE FRG HAVE DONE ANY REAL THINKING OR PREPARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES FOR THE UPCOMING GA (REFTEL B). ALMOST ALL SAID THAT NEITHER THEY NOR THEIR CAPITALS HAD BEGUN TO FORMULATE ANY PLANS AS YET. COMMENT. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT LITTLE WILL HAPPEN THIS YEAR, EXCEPT SOME CHANCE CONFRONTATION PROBABLY ALONG COLD WAR LINES THAT WILL BECOME THE BIG ISSUE OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE, UNLESS SOME CATALYTIC PROPOSAL CAN BE ADVANCED SOON. END COMMENT.
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4. WE HAVE AN ADVANTAGE THIS YEAR IN THE ABSENCE OF THE TWO MOST SKILLFUL ANTI-HUMAN RIGHTS REPS (SMIRNOV OF THE USSR AND ALFONSO OF CUBA). THE MAJOR OBSTACLE WILL BE THE "OVERALL ANALYSIS" BEGUN BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION THIS YEAR, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED NEXT YEAR AND REPORTED TO THE GA IN 1979. IT WILL BE USED AS AN EXCUSE BY THOSE WHO DO NOT WANT ANY HUMAN RIGHTS PROPOSALS ADOPTED TO REFER EVERYTHING TO THE HRC AS PART OF THE OVERALL ANALYSIS. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE RECEPTIVITY OF THE PRIMARY "BROKER" NATIONS TO IDEAS SUCH AS THOSE MENTIONED IN PARA 5 BELOW. THESE BROKER NATIONS CONTACTED INCLUDE ALGERIA, EGYPT, FINLAND, IRAN, JAMAICA AND PORTUGAL.

5. MISOFF MENTIONED AS IDEAS BEING DISCUSSED IN THE DEPARTMENT THOSE ITEMS MENTIONED IN REFTEL A:

- --A NEW AGENDA ITEM ON COMMUNICATION AND
- COORDINATION OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES
- OF INTERNATIONAL AND UN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANS.

- --A GA RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HRC TO CALL
 - A RESUMED SESSION AFTER ITS REGULAR SESSION
 - IN 1979, IF IT DISCOVERED IT COULD NOT
 - COMPLETE THE OVERALL ANALYSIS IN TIME TO
 - REPORT TO THE 34TH GA AS MANDATED BY 32/130.

 - --EXPANSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION (HRD)
 - STAFF TO INCLUDE:
 - A. AN ADDITIONAL LIAISON OFFICER IN NEW YORK;
 - B. FOUR OR FIVE MORE OFFICERS IN THE FIELD
 - OF COMMUNICATIONS;
 - C. A SPECIAL BUDGET ITEM FOR 1503 MISSIONS; AND
 - D. REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD OFFICERS TO
 - PROMOTE ADVISORY AND CONSULTATIVE SERVICES
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- AND TO BE ATTACHED TO THE REGIONAL HEAD-
 - QUARTERS OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC
 - COMMISSIONS.
-
- --A RENEWED EFFORT TO PRESENT THE US PROPOSAL
 - FOR A COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS TO REPORT ANNUALLY
 - TO THE SYG OR THE GA ON THE PROBLEM OF TORTURE.

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THE RESPONSE TO ALL OF THESE PROPOSALS WAS GENERALLY POSITIVE. THE PROPOSAL FOR THE NEW AGENDA ITEM RAISED THE MOST QUESTIONS, BUT NO FIRM OPPOSITION.

6. PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANT POINTS EMERGING THROUGH OUR CONTACTS (EXCEPTING UK, PREVIOUSLY REPORTED REFTEL B):

- ALGERIA: WILLING TO CONSIDER WORKING ON THESE ISSUES WITH THE US, WANTS TO SEE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS.
- AUSTRALIA: ONE OF THE LEADERS LAST YEAR, NEW ASSIGNMENTS AND HEAVY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS THIS YEAR MAKE MUCH LEADERSHIP FROM LAMB VERY UNLIKELY.
- CANADA: A KEY COUNTRY, SINCE BEAULNE WILL BE CHAIRMAN OF THE HRC. WANTS TO PICK ONE ISSUE AND PUSH IT. INTERESTED IN POLITICAL PRISONERS, BUT ALSO MUCH INTERESTED IN "ENCOURAGING VAN BOVEN" BY WORKING TO HELP STRENGTHEN THE HRD STAFF. PROMISED TO ALERT BEAULNE, NOW IN OTTAWA, ON THESE ISSUES, AND TO GET HIS THINKING ON STRENGTHENING HRD STAFF.
- COSTA RICA: SOUGHT OUT MISOFF WITH INFORMATION THAT NEW COSTA RICAN AMBASSADOR TO UN WANTS TO INSCRIBE HIGH COMMISSIONER PROPOSAL AGAIN. MISOFF URGED HER TO GATHER TOGETHER AS MANY OF THE ACTIVE CO-SPONSORS FROM LAST YEAR TOGETHER AS POSSIBLE, INCLUDING AS MANY AFRICANS AS POSSIBLE, BEFORE MAKING THAT DECISION, AND NOTED THAT OVERALL ANALYSIS OF 32/130 WOULD CERTAINLY BE USED AS AN ARGUMENT AGAINST VOTING FOR IT THIS YEAR. MISOFF FURTHER PROMISED US SUPPORT FOR GROUP OF CO-SPONSORS, AND URGED THAT THEY SEEK TO GET AS MANY NATIONS AS POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER IDEA IN THEIR THIRD COMMITTEE AND PLENARY STATEMENTS (AGAIN, ESPECIALLY AFRICANS), TO SEND IN THEIR COMMENTS BY OCTOBER 15 PURSUANT TO 32/130, AND TO LOOK FORWARD TO THE FIGHT IN THE HRC

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AND IN THE GA IN 1979.

- EGYPT: THE LEAST SUPPORTIVE OF ALL THE DELEGATES CONTACTED, STILL SLIGHTLY MORE FRIENDLY TO THESE ISSUES THAN LAST YEAR, AND NOT STRONGLY OPPOSED.
- FINLAND: READY TO WORK AGAIN, AND FOLLOW THROUGH ON UGANDA. ALSO, EAGER TO IMPLEMENT 32/130 (OF WHICH THEY WERE AN ARCHITECT).
- FRG: HAS BEGUN TO TRY TO PUT TOGETHER THE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION OF THE NINE SEEKING A COMMON POSITION, AND IS EAGER TO CONSULT WITH US--MORE SO THAN LAST YEAR. INTERESTED IN AT LEAST RHETORICAL SUPPORT FOR GENSCHER'S FAVORITE IDEA--AN INTERNATIONAL COURT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. HAS DONE MORE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS IN NYC THAN ANYONE EXCEPT UK AND US.
- IRAN; GOING OUT OF ITS WAY TO BE FRIENDLY, AND LOOKING FOR ISSUES IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD WHICH IT CAN WORK JOINTLY WITH THE WESTERN, ARAB AND AFRICAN POWERS TOGETHER.
- IRELAND: READY TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE, AND TO GET OUT IN FRONT, BUT UNWILLING TO USE HUMAN RIGHTS AS A COLD WAR ISSUE.
- ITALY: INCLINED TO BE PASSIVE THIS YEAR, SINCE ITALY HAS MAPPED OUT A BIG CAMPAIGN TO GET ELECTED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND DOES NOT WANT TO MAKE ENEMIES. HOWEVER, THE ITALIAN REP WILL MENTION THE SUGGESTIONS FOR PROPOSALS THAT UK AND US HAVE MENTIONED TO HIM IN HIS SECURITY COUNCIL LOBBYING, "SINCE YOU HAVE TO HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT BESIDES JUST SUPPORT IN AN ELECTION WHEN YOU ARE LOBBYING."
- JAMAICA: THE NEW REP HAS SERVED ON THE THIRD COMMITTEE BEFORE, AND MUCH LIKES THE IDEA OF BEING A BRIDGE BETWEEN AFRICA AND THE WEST, BETWEEN

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NORTH AND SOUTH, AND OF BEING MORE ACTIVE IN HUMAN RIGHTS AFFAIRS. MISOFF SUGGESTED TO HER THAT PERHAPS THE JAMAICANS AND INDIANS COULD WORK TOGETHER ON THE CONCEPT OF AUTONOMOUS NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS, JOINING TOGETHER IN SUCH INSTITUTIONS THE FULL PACKAGE OF RIGHTS--CIVIL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL, AND PERHAPS BRINGING UNRISD (OF WHICH JAMAICA IS A SPONSOR) INTO THE PICTURE AS A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DATA-KEEPER AND REPORT-RECEIVER.

- NIGERIA: AYENI REPORTED TO MISOFF JUST BEFORE HE TOOK OFF FOR GENEVA THAT LAGOS HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO PUSH IN HIS STATEMENTS AT THE THIRD COMMITTEE FOR THE CONCEPT OF THE COORDINATOR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES, EVEN THOUGH THEY UNDERSTAND THE REAL FIGHT MUST BE MADE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION UNDER THE OVERALL ANALYSIS AND WILL NOT TRY TO PRESENT A RESOLUTION ON THIS ISSUE THIS FALL.
- PORTUGAL: URGED THAT THE US CONTACT THE SOON-TO-BE-NAMED PORTUGUESE REP TO THE HRC AS SOON AS HE IS NAMED, BECAUSE "HE CAN GET MY GOVERNMENT INTERESTED IN THESE ISSUES, AND I CAN'T." HE WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN THE IDEA OF THE

AUTHORIZATION OF A RESUMED SESSION FOR THE HRC, AND,
IF SUPPORTED BY LISBON, WILL BE MUCH MORE ACTIVE.
HE COMMENTED THAT SPAIN IS ABOUT READY TO BE MORE
ACTIVE IN HUMAN RIGHTS AFFAIRS, ALSO. LEONARD

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